

**MINUTES OF THE
AUBURN CITY HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
June 18, 2013**

The regular session of the Auburn City Historic Design Review Commission meeting was called to order on June 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Spokely in the Council Chambers, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Luebkehan, Vitas, Worthington, Combs, Green,
Kratzer-Yue & Spokely

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Willick & Briggs

STAFF PRESENT: Will Wong, Community Development Director
Lance E. Lowe, AICP, Associate Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved September 4, 2012 and May 7, 2013 minutes as submitted.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW – 153 CLEVELAND AVENUE (BUCHETTO WALL MURAL) – FILE HDR 13-05.** The applicant requests Historic Design Review Commission approval for a wall mural to be located on the southeast wall of 153 Cleveland Avenue.

Planner Lowe presented the wall mural project at 153 Cleveland Avenue. Planner Lowe discussed the design components of the mural, free speech content limitations and design considerations that are and are not under the Historic Design Review Commission's purview respectively; and consistency with the Department of the Interior Standards and Historic Preservation Architectural Design Guidelines, where applicable.

Planner Lowe answered questions from the Commission regarding mural options and house designs.

The Historic Design Review Commission requested clarification on the mural options for consideration.

Planner Lowe discussed the mural options removing the signage and leaving the signage.

Director Wong recommended that the Historic Design Review Commission approve both options if they liked them both so that the applicant would not have to come back for an amendment later.

Commissioner Worthington noted that the project site was in the Historic District and questioned how the mural design reflected the Historic Nature of Auburn.

Commissioner Kratzer-Yue stated that the mural seemed to be generic and did not relate to Auburn's history and noted that the mural should be unique and reflect Auburn's history.

Director Wong explained the free speech protections provided to non-commercial messages, which are not under the Historic Design Review Commission's purview and the design elements (i.e. colors, fonts, etc.) that are under the HDRC's discretion.

Commissioner Combs noted that she reviewed the *Department of the Interior's Standards* for consistency and noted that mural doesn't seem to fit within the Historic District.

Chairman Spokely opened the public hearing.

Louis Buchetto, of 125 Agard Street, the applicant and muralist, addressed the Historic Design Review Commission. Mr. Buchetto spoke to his art background and noted that he has been doing this type of art for approximately 10 years.

Mr. Buchetto noted that this type of art is located all over the world and he has done similar types of pieces in other Cities.

Mr. Buchetto noted that the owner liked the mural and he polled business persons within 100 feet of the site and received positive opinions on the design.

Mr. Buchetto noted that Cleveland Avenue is an area that has a mix of buildings that are not historic.

Commissioner Worthington asked Mr. Buchetto if he would be willing to modify or move his mural?

Mr. Buchetto replied that he believed his mural to be appropriate to the Cleveland Avenue area which is not historic. The mural is proposed to cover a blank grey CMU wall.

Commissioner Vitas concurred with the applicant that the Cleveland Avenue area is not historic and that the mural will be applied to a blank CMU wall.

Commissioner Green noted that he is glad to see artists move to the Auburn area and it is very honorable of Mr. Buschetto to paint this mural at his own cost.

Commissioner Green noted that with some minor adjustments, the mural could reflect Auburn's history. Commissioner Green noted that he appreciates the artists' mural, but would suggest that Mr. Buchetto consider:

- Adding a light in the window of the house;
- Changing the river to reflect Auburn;
- Incorporating one of Auburn's bridges.

Commission Combs noted that she supports the artists' vision but the mural is located in the Historic District and doesn't believe it is consistent with the Downtown Historic District.

Commissioner Luebke noted that he liked the mural and the Cleveland Avenue Street is not historic; however, Commissioner Luebke had concerns about property owners painting their buildings multiple colors and calling it a non-commercial protected message.

Planner Lowe noted that with respect to buildings, the Historic Preservation Architectural Design Guidelines notes that building colors should be limited to two primary colors and an accent color. However, those provisions directly apply to building colors and not murals.

Director Wong concurred and noted that staff's recommendation would be of denial if an applicant desired to paint their building multiple different colors. However, in this case, the applicant is clearly painting a non-commercial protected message.

Chairman Spokely commented that he agreed with the applicant, that Cleveland Avenue has a wide range of uses without much historical context. Chairman Spokely noted that painting the side of a blank CMU wall may give some life to the Cleveland Avenue street.

Chairman Spokely noted that slight modifications could be made to incorporate Auburn's diverse landscape and history, such as the confluence and great vistas, but appreciates the artists' personal vision for the mural.

Chairman Spokely noted that local artists should be supported for their effort and talents whenever possible.

Commissioner Vitas **MOVED** to adopt Historic Design Review Resolution No. 13-08 to include both options as provided by the applicant.

Commissioner Spokely **SECONDED** the motion.

AYES: Vitas, Green & Spokely
NOES: Luebkehan, Worthington, Combs & Kratzer-Yue
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Willick & Briggs

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Commission Powers and Duties Ad Hoc Committee Discussion pursuant to Section 159.496 (A)(5) as stated:

§159.496 (A)(5) Render advice and guidance, upon request of the owner or occupant of the property, on the restoration, alternation, decoration, landscaping or maintenance of any cultural resource including landmarks, sites, districts or neighboring properties within public view;

Commissioner Luebkehan presented the draft updated Historic Design Review Web-page and discussed the Web-page. Commissioner Luebkehan noted that the Historic Design Review Commission should review the web-page and provide recommendations on any changes.

The Commission Powers and Duties Ad Hoc Committee will present the changes at the next available Historic Design Review Commission meeting.

VII. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

- A. City Council Meetings

None

- B. Future Historic Design Review Commission Meetings

Director Wong noted that Ad Hoc committee for Commission Powers and Duties Number 6 and 10 is planned to be heard on August 6. There are no other Historic Design Review Commission meetings scheduled at this time.

- C. Reports

None

VIII. HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION REPORTS

None

IX. FUTURE HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance E. Lowe, AICP, Associate Planner